

# e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 56

October 2009

No. 8



## Calendar

Mon., Sept. 28	Town Council Work Session, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Oct. 15	Swimming Pool membership meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Thurs., Oct. 1	Casual Musicians' Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sat., Oct. 17	Large item pickup; town walking tour, 11 am (see p 3)
Sat., Oct. 3	GIVES collection, Penn Place, 9 am-1 pm (see p 5)	Sun., Oct. 18	Town walking tour, 11 am (p 3)
Sun., Oct. 4	Conservation in Action Tour, 2 to 5 pm (p 6); Citizens Assoc. Newcomers' Welcome, Town Hall, 4:30 to 6 pm: all residents are invited (p 4)	Thurs., Oct. 22	Senior Games and Tea, Town Hall, 1:30 to 4 pm
Sat., Oct. 10	Attic in the Street Sale, Kenilworth Ave. south, 10 am-2 pm	Sat., Oct. 24	Pumpkin carving, Penn Place basketball court, 1 pm (see p 4)
Sun., Oct. 11	Casual Musicians' Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Mon., Oct. 26	Town Council Work Session, Town Hall, 8 pm
Mon., Oct. 12	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Wed., Oct. 28	Citizens Assoc. Mtg., Town Hall, 8 pm (see p 4)
Tues., Oct. 13	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 3 pm	Fri., Oct. 30	Three schools Halloween costume parade (afternoon); Spooky Woods, Porcupine Woods, 7 pm (see p 4)
		Fri., Nov. 6	GP Film Society, Town Hall: crosswords, 6:45; pot luck, 7:15; <i>Wordplay</i> , 8 pm (see p 7)

## Children, Dogs, Drainage

On a warm dark evening, with deer drifting from Argyle Avenue into the woods, your reporter made her way to the Town Hall to cover the first post-summer Council meeting. There were differences to note right away (I've been out of town for a year), mainly involving food. The new Council snarfs grapes, nuts, and strawberries while deliberating. Also, some members bring their own beverages. The result is a striking

departure from the ascetic, Dasani-only look of earlier Councils.

Since there were no presentations from residents, the Mayor and Council took up the construction at 11110 Rokeby, where owners are building a driveway and retaining walls in the town right of way. Consent of the Council is needed for such constructions. In part the ques-

(continued next page)

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(continued from previous page)  
tion, as Hans Wegner remarked, is, “Will what they build restrict a possible future sidewalk?” The Council voted unanimously to defer a decision on the matter, pending discussion with, and more information from, the owners.

Next, after some tightening of its language and definitions, the Council adopted a new state debt policy.

The Mayor plans to present Garrett Park’s views on growth at an upcoming County Council hearing. We have worries about traffic control, among other things. Nearby White Flint seems especially vulnerable to too much growth. The Mayor will circulate his testimony in town before the hearing.

Now Ida Sullivan presented a report from the Parks committee, mainly about the replacement of play equipment. Ida suggested that replacement of Cambria Park equipment in particular would be a good use of town money; she’s done a lot of research, and found some excellent sales. “I know money is tight right now, and we need to think in terms of priorities,” Ida said. “What’s most important to us? Children, dogs, drainage...?” “Dogs,” came the response.

The Mayor said the Council will decide on a use of the money at its upcoming work session; he also commended Ida for her great work—especially for taking a group of actual certified children to various local playgrounds to observe what they liked to play on.

The Mayor then explained that there are many meetings going on about White Flint traffic worries, and various townspeople—Councilmembers and citizens—plan to attend some of them.

The transfer of the Nursery School from Parks and Planning to the town, said the Mayor, is moving along. But there are some ambiguities in the language of the transfer—conditions under which the property might, for instance, be returned to the county—and we’re waiting for greater clarity on this.

The meeting was winding down when I left at 10 o’clock to share the dim romantic lanes of Garrett Park with the deer once more.

Margaret Soltan

### Services for Seniors

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## Bugle Space Limits

Last year’s controversies led many issues of the *Bugle* to be longer than usual, with the result that the Citizens Association had to expend more than usual on printing and paper costs. Consequently, we have decided to impose limits on the *Bugle*’s length, which may mean shortening articles and letters more than has been done in the past.

We are aiming to limit issues to 8 pages (with some exceptions). It would also be helpful if letters to the editor are confined to 400 to 500 words (about one full *Bugle* column—with and without ad space). If absolutely necessary, it would be possible to include longer versions in the e-*Bugle*, with a note to that effect in the paper version. (In that case, a printout of the e-*Bugle* could be posted on the Penn Place bulletin board.) We would prefer to avoid this expedient.

Two final points: Shorter letters are more likely to be read. And paying the Citizens Association dues would be very helpful.

Editor

## Green Again

Doreen and Richard Siegel of Kenilworth donated money for this month’s green. They say that they were happy to have their son Jonas, daughter-in-law Sara, and granddaughter Lucy come and stay with them while they were trying to find a place of their own after moving from Chicago. We thank them for the donation, and hope the house hunting went off OK.

We need “green” money to keep our banner green in May and June of 2010. Anyone else want to join the greening? Sending us \$39 will get you the pleasure of knowing that you are helping with the printing costs. Mail a check made out to the GP Citizens Association to Box 98, and you will earn my eternal gratitude!

Mary Moyer

Visit Garrett Park’s Web site:  
[www.garrettpark-md.gov](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov)

The Garrett Bugle is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the Bugle is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

**Citizens Association Officers:**  
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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$15 (first class) or \$13 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to Bugle staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: [www.garrettpark-md.gov/submitBugleArticle.php](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov/submitBugleArticle.php). The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

# Town Administrator Notes

*Large Item Pickup:* The fall large item collection will take place on Saturday, October 17. This is a change from the original date, so please check your calendars to make sure you have the correct date.

*Regular Trash, Recycling, & Yard Waste Collection:* Remember, when a Monday or Thursday is a major holiday (New Year’s Day, Fourth of July, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas), collection times change:

- Trash collection resumes the following scheduled collection day.
- Recycling is collected on the following Wednesday.
- Yard waste is collected on the following Monday. Remember, in November yard waste goes to monthly collection (the first Monday of the month).

*Driveway & Parking Pad Permits:* Please remember, if you are planning to alter your driveway or install a parking pad in front of your house, you affect town property, and you must file for a permit with the Town Office. Call 301-933-7488 if you have questions.

*Be Prepared:* September is National Preparedness Month. It is important to remember that a certain degree of self-reliance is usually necessary after a major catastrophe. It is recommended that each household have at least 3 days’ worth of water, food, and other essentials on hand at all times. For safety, avoid candles and oil lamps and get battery-powered emergency lights instead. For more information on how best to prepare for the worst, visit [www.makeaplan.org](http://www.makeaplan.org) or call 866-788-PLAN. The Town Office has information on programs such as Ready Plan and File of Life.

*Community Security & Personal Safety:* From time to time, incidents in our area remind us that we need to be aware of what is going on in our neighborhoods and as we travel about, and that *homes should be securely locked at all times*. Long-time residents will remember fondly the days when houses and cars were not locked, when delivery people would leave groceries or other items on the kitchen table—I certainly do. Those days are no longer with us. Keep your car and your home locked at all times. Residents who

are concerned about possibly being locked out of their car or home should contact the Town Office for suggestions on how to prevent this. If you notice suspicious activity or have general concerns about your own security, contact the Montgomery County Police at the nonemergency number (301-279-8000), and they will immediately dispatch an officer to check on the situation. If you feel that you or someone else is threatened in any way, call 911.

*Leaf Raking & Yard Work Assistance:* Any young people in town who would like to offer their services to help residents with fall yard work may contact Elizabeth Henley at the Town Office (301-933-7488) to add their names to the list we keep.


Ted Pratt  
Town Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

## Town Walking Tour

Garrett Park has a new walking tour brochure, partially funded by a county grant, that is focused on the town’s history and architecture. The walk covers the core of the Garrett Park historic district and touches briefly on the founding of the town, its unique street plan, and the variety of architecture that has come to characterized the town over the years: Victorians, Chevys, bungalows, Techbuilds. The pamphlets are free and can be picked up at Penn Place or the Town Office. Keep a couple extras at home for visitors who are interested in Garrett Park.

*Walking Tours Scheduled.* For those who did not have the opportunity to go on a guided version of the walking tour last fall, Perry Chapman and Andy Seferlis have agreed to repeat their excursion into Garrett Park history. They can provide more details about the houses and colorful characters of Garrett Park than would fit in our small brochure. Join your tour guide in front of Penn Place at 11 on Saturday, October 17, or Sunday, October 18. The tour takes about an hour, and copies of the walking tour brochure will be available for all participants. (If the Saturday tour is rained out, a second tour will be added on Sunday at 1 pm.)

*Garrett Park Featured on Montgomery Cable.* County Cable Montgomery has produced a short video based on the town’s walking tour brochure for the series “Paths to the Present.” Much of it is ably narrated by resident Perry Chapman, a member of the Historic Preservation Committee. The video is well done and provides a succinct visual history of the town. If you have not yet seen it, check the County Cable Montgomery Web site and click “Weekly Schedule” to see when the program is airing. Or click “Programs” and scroll to “Paths to the Present” to view the program on your computer. You can also borrow a DVD of the program from the Town Office.



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# Citizens Association News

*Next Meeting.* Please join us at 8 pm on October 28 in the Town Hall to get updates on two very important topics to our town, the Nursery School and land use.

*Nursery School Update.* In July, the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission voted to transfer the Garrett Park Estates activity building (also known as the Nursery School building or Garrett Park Community Center) to the town of Garrett Park. The Town Council is going to decide whether to accept the transfer in the next few weeks or months. If it proceeds, the town would hold title to the land so long as the land was being used for recreational-type purposes. If it ceased being used for such purposes, at the Commission’s option, title would revert to the Commission. The Nursery School has requested a lease from the town. The Nursery School has proposed that in exchange for a no- or low-rent long-term lease, the Nursery School would take responsibility for paying for necessary repairs and ongoing operational costs related to the building.

*Land Use Discussion.* Members of the Land Use Task Force (LUTF) will provide a brief overview of the progress the LUTF has made to date and the future process, followed by resident input and discussion. The Citizens Association will moderate a discussion with residents and the Task Force, with a primary focus on getting citizen input.

The open discussion will focus on general issues and concerns, as well as individual experiences, with town land use regulations and the town’s permit process (both good and bad). The objective is to listen to residents’ desires and concerns about land use in Garrett Park now and in the future, and to hear residents’ suggestions on how to meet those goals.

So if you are concerned about expanding your home, adding a bay window or screened porch, buying or selling GP property, or demolition/ replacement of older homes, please come share your opinion about Garrett Park’s future land use.

An important component in the LUTF process is your feedback.

## Upcoming Events

*Newcomers’ Welcome Reception.* The date for the annual Newcomers’ Reception is Sunday, October 4, from 4:30 to 6 pm in the Town Hall. We extend a warm invitation to families who have moved into town over the past year. Come meet your new neighbors and find out about everything that’s going on in town. “Old timers” are encouraged to join us and share information about Garrett Park. Light refreshments will be provided. Please note that this is a date change from the tentative date of September 27 that was originally planned.

*Pumpkin Carving.* Please join us on Saturday, October 24, at 1 pm on the basketball court for the annual pumpkin carving contest. Snacks and refreshments will be provided for this event. We request that you please bring your own pumpkin and carving utensils (knives, stencils, etc.).

*Spooky Woods.* At 7 pm on Friday, October 30, the GPCA’s annual Spooky Woods will kick off in Porcupine Woods. Kids of all ages are invited to join us to share scares and laughs at this Garrett Park tradition. Volunteer ghouls are needed that day to set up and during the event to act in “haunted stations.” We will provide power. To help, please contact Lara Hines by e-mail at lhines@lynxinvestment.com or by telephone at 202-271-2542.

*Garrett Park Listserv.* To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

*Questions or comments for the Citizens Association?* If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Chris Strong.

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# GIVES Announcement and Update

I wish to inform everyone that I will be stepping down as president of GIVES after nine years, effective at the end of December. I have enjoyed seeing the organization grow. I plan to continue as an active volunteer and will always care about GIVES' future success. I hope to pursue other interests and spend more time in California with my daughters and at our cabin in West Virginia.

I am happy to report that town residents Rana Koll-Mandel and Nancy Walz have agreed to take over as co-presidents. They are capable and caring people, so I am leaving GIVES in good hands. Karen Anderson will remain as Treasurer; she and her husband Bob Reinhardt have been a tremendous help. So things will continue as usual.

Unfortunately, the August and September collections were down; please consider making a donation on October 3 at the P.O., or you can mail one to me at Box 258. Dollars are needed now more than ever, because more people need help in these tough times.

We plan to continue dividing our dollars between the American Friends Service Committee and Thrive D.C. The latter provides the last safety net for people facing economic crises and housing instability, as well as the first step towards independence after a period of homelessness. As you can see, this is an extremely worthwhile cause. Thrive D.C. has told me it especially needs sample size toothpaste, lotion, and shampoo—but we will accept samples of any toiletries. You may either bring them to the P.O. the second Saturday of most months, or call me or Karen, and we will be happy to pick them up and see that they are delivered. Thrive D.C. needs volunteers, so if you can help in any way, please let us know.

Many thanks to all of the Garrett Park volunteers and residents (especially to Ann Gordon) who have helped me over the years.

Glenda Ingham

## Letter to the Editor

### A Developing Story. . .

The saga of the White Flint development and our schools continues. In July, the county's Planning Board passed a proposed White Flint Sector Plan and a related Growth Policy that

- provide for developments that would yield several hundred students for each level (HS, MS, ES) of schools in our HS area (cluster);
- do not reserve land in the development area for a new ES, or funding to reopen a former ES;
- recommend that MCPS solve the ES crowding problem by reopening Rocking Horse ES in the Downcounty Consortium—which would redraw the boundary between our HS and the consortium—or by other redistricting;
- speed up development by relaxing various adequate public facilities standards; and
- reduce school facility payments.

The Plan and Policy would result in—

- *Bigger, more crowded ES's.* Students in the development area would enter GPES and Luxmanor ES until the school system (MCPS) determines that there are about 300 extra ES students in the cluster.
- *Possible ES or HS redistricting.* After that (in 10 to 15 years, sooner if the Growth Policy accelerates development more), MCPS would decide whether to build or reopen an ES in the cluster, reopen a school outside the cluster, or redistrict. Rocking Horse ES is only one option, but it would likely redistrict WJHS students—no one can say which ones—to the Downcounty Consortium.

- *Bigger, more crowded HS.* WJHS could outgrow its modernized capacity in 12 years (sooner if the Growth Policy accelerates growth more). Eventually, it could have hundreds of students in trailers.

(For information on the impact of the White Flint Sector Plan and Growth Policy on neighborhoods, please see [WhiteFlintCommunity.org](http://WhiteFlintCommunity.org).)

The site selection or redistricting could be 10 years off, but decisions about related land and funding, and the degree of residential development, will be made quite soon. The County Council is to hold public hearings on the Growth Policy on September 22 and on the White Flint Sector Plan on November 3, and vote on each within a few months.

What the County Council can do:

- Refuse to approve a plan unless it reserves land in the cluster for a school. The Council can commit to acquiring that land.
- Commit to providing funds to build a school or reopen a former cluster school. For example, it can give WJ priority for CIP funds. It can retain school facility payment requirements.
- Drop the Growth Policy exemptions to public facility rules, and resist efforts to increase development size.

I know that my neighbors in Garrett Park always have plenty to say on matters affecting our town and its children. I'll soon make information available on ways to comment on the Growth Policy. Heartfelt thanks for your thoughts and assistance.

Liz King



## Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ The Giblins are back home after a stint in Belgium. They returned mid-June just in time to celebrate the graduations of Caitlin from Providence (R.I.) College with a BA in political science and French, and Patrick from St. John's International School in Waterloo, Belgium. He is now attending the College of Charleston, in Charleston, South Carolina. Welcome home to an empty nest, and congratulations.
- ♪ A rough summer for some of our residents. Jack Sugar of Kenilworth Avenue died August 15 from complications of Parkinson's disease. He was 79. He leaves his wife Judy and three children—Ross of Baltimore, Eve Clancy of Hampton, Virginia, and Erica of Annapolis—as well as four grandchildren. Our condolences to the family.
- ♪ Also during the summer, our own Eleanor Melville lost two of her adult children: Emily and Bob. Eleanor was then driven out to Iowa by son Martin so she could spend time at the family homestead. Our hearts go out to Eleanor.
- ♪ In July there was a picture in the *Gazette* of four very wet swimmers who raised money during a Swim-a-Thon for the Ladybugs Swim Team. Mayor Keller, his wife Henri, Councilmembers Jack Mandel and Beth Irons helped to raise \$1,400.
- ♪ Speaking of the pool, the crab feast was rained out this year. Crabs were sold by the dozen or bushel for those hearty folks who still had a hankering for the crustaceans.
- ♪ And at the pool on the last day, did you know there was a “doggie” swim? A picture appeared in the *Gazette* of Louie (of the Hurwitz family) holding on for dear life at the edge of the pool.
- ♪ Finally, the *Gazette* had a piece about Sean Ruttkay and his bid to win the International Triathlon Championship in Australia the second weeks of September. Hope he did well.
- ♪ Rehearsals have begun for the Christmas sing-along on December 11 at the Town Hall. If you would like to join the small group, please contact Mary Moyer. We especially need women who can read music! There will be only four short rehearsals during October, November, and December on Sunday evenings.

## Green Tour

Garrett Park residents interested in preserving green spaces and reducing their carbon footprints should mark their calendars for the Conservation in Action Tour taking place all over town on Sunday, October 4, from 2 to 5 pm.

Enjoy an afternoon of meeting neighbors, strolling around town, and developing an appreciation of the preservation passion and common sense conservation that has marked this town's history.

Have you been thinking about installing a rain garden? Need a few tips on energy saving improvements that enhance comfort and reduce bills? Want the scoop on buying wind energy? Close to a dozen families are ready to share their “green” stories, good and bad, on this do-it-yourself tour of 17 homes and natural sites. Pamphlets and further information about signing up for green power, getting a home energy audit, and

other sustainability actions will be available at Penn Place during the tour.

The tour is sponsored by the Garrett Park Conservation Trust and the Garrett Park Conservation Action Now (CAN) committee. Admission is free, but tax-deductible donations to the GP Conservation Trust are welcome. Your “ticket” to the tour is the brochure, which may be downloaded from [www.gpcan.org](http://www.gpcan.org) or picked up in person on the day of the tour at the Post Office from 2 to 5 pm.

### Remember your loved ones with a fine oil or pastel portrait by Robert LeMar.

For an example of Robert's work, please see a photo of his portrait of the President on the GP bulletin board.

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# Wordplay and Pot Luck

Maybe you never thought of crossword puzzles in connection with competitive sports, but think again. On November 6, the GP Film Society presents *Wordplay*, a documentary film from 2006, which introduces you to *New York Times* crossword editor Will Shortz, the people who create the *Times* crosswords, and the people obsessed by them—including Bill Clinton and Jon Stewart. The focus of the film, however, is the Annual American Crossword Puzzle Tournament organized by Shortz since 1978. IMDB users describe it as “great fun” and “a feel good documentary.”

This also will be the occasion of the Film Society’s third annual potluck supper. Bring a dish (salad, entrée, dessert) and eat for free. If you are too swamped to cook, pay \$10/person. Soft drinks, nuts, and bottled water will be available for \$1 (free to members with coupons), wine for \$5/glass, and beer for \$3.

Come to the Town Hall at 6:45 pm if you want to participate in our own version of a crossword competition. Dinner will be served at 7:15 and the movie will be shown at 8 pm. Admission to the film is free for members and is \$5 per person or \$10 per family for nonmembers.

## Obituary

### Mike Seeger

Former Garrett Park resident Mike Seeger passed away on August 7, 2009. Mike was a well-known historian, collector, and performer of traditional American folk music. He influenced a number of musicians, including Bob Dylan. He recorded extensively, both solo, with his band the New Lost City Ramblers, and with his sister Peggy and half-brother Pete. The albums “American Folk Songs for Children” and “Mike Seeger and Alice Gerrard” were recorded at his home on Montrose Avenue.

Barry Rosloff

# Volunteers Needed

Garrett Park has received a grant to develop an interactive history map. The map will have a “hot spot” for each property in town. Moving the computer cursor over that spot will bring up information on the history and architecture of the building. We need volunteers to work this fall to assemble the data on town buildings that will become part of the map. This will primarily involve work in the Town Archives in Penn Place. We also need someone to make contemporary photographs of the buildings to be included. Our work must be completed by the end of the year. Our volunteer efforts will form the town’s “match” for the grant funds. If you are interested in participating, please call Nancy Schwartz or leave your name with the Town Office. If you have already done research on your house and would like to contribute that information to this project, please also let us know.

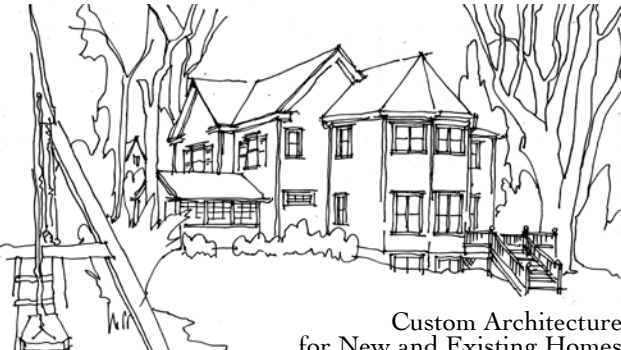
## GPES

While still waiting for the new building to be built, Garrett Park is going through some growing pains. There are now five kindergarten classes and four first grades, with the rest of the grades at three classes each. And then there are problems with the Computer Lab, which necessitated the move of Mr. Frazier’s fifth grade class back into the old building so that his old room could be turned into the computer lab. Children seem to be appearing from all directions.

The preparations for the reunion of alumni 21 years of age and older are proceeding nicely. Over 400 names of past students were gleaned from files and phone books, and letters sent to invite them back for a party the Saturday after Thanksgiving (November 28). Letters were hand-delivered to the family homes of known graduates in Garrett Park and the Estates, with the hope that they will be forwarded on. If you need more invitations, contact me and I’ll get you some, or you can copy them yourself and send them on. We look for a bang-up party.

Mary Moyer

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## Letter from the Mayor

As we begin a new year (yes, even with children grown and away, I still think of the start of school as the beginning of the “year”), the town is dealing with a variety of challenging issues. Over the summer, the full Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission approved the recommendation of the Montgomery County Parks Department to make available for transfer to the town of Garrett Park the Garrett Park Estates Park Activity Building, also known as the Community Center and the home of the Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School. The terms of the proposed transfer are more straightforward than a previous proposal involving a land swap, but two key issues remain to be resolved before the town can decide whether to accept the offer: the precise form of ownership that the Commission proposes to transfer to the town, and the question of “utility separation” at the site of the building. The exact type of land title is important to know so that the town can prudently consider whether to accept ownership. The issue of utility separation arises in the context of the planned rebuilding of the Garrett Park Elementary School and involves water and sewer service to the school and the Activity Building; resolution of the issue before town acquisition of the Activity Building is essential. As soon as we receive further information bearing on the proposed transfer, we will disseminate it. Public meetings on the issue will be held by both the Town Council and the Citizens Association.

The other major area that will occupy our attention over the coming months involves White Flint development and related land use issues. The Montgomery County Council will be considering three recommendations forwarded recently by the Planning Commission: the White Flint Sector Plan, adoption of a new Commercial-Residential (CR) zone, and approval of the 2010–2012 Growth Policy for Montgomery County. Although we all recognize that growth and development are largely inevitable (and in some respects desirable), that very inevitability sharpens the need for intelligent, comprehensive planning that is sensitive to environmental concerns and the needs of established neighborhoods. Community concerns with respect to each of the three major initiatives before the County Council have common elements—revolving primarily around the lack of balance between development density and infrastructure, including serious misgivings about the adequacy of traffic and school analysis to ensure sufficient facilities.

By the time you read this, the town will have presented testimony on the proposed Growth Policy, expressing not only the concerns outlined above, but our particular dissatisfaction with the fact that the Growth Policy proposes an exception for White Flint before the White Flint Sector

Plan has even been considered by the Council. We have similar process-based concerns about the County Council’s consideration of the new CR zone. The new zoning category, as yet not fully defined, contains incentives (such as environmental requirements) for developers to pick and choose in exchange for greater density; White Flint is the first sector plan to rely heavily on CR zoning. As a policy matter, incentives (vs. mandatory regulation) can be a desirable planning tool, but it is essential that the details of the CR zone be finalized before the White Flint Sector Plan is considered. Failure to provide a more coherent process for consideration of these closely allied proposals not only frustrates informed citizen participation, it simply does not make sense from the standpoint of good planning. Montgomery County has an enviable and largely well-deserved reputation for enlightened and far-sighted land use planning. It would be a pity to both squander that distinction and endanger established neighborhoods by a rush to approve policies that are not fully considered and that have all the earmarks of being overly permissive.

County Council hearings on the White Flint Sector Plan itself are scheduled for October 20; the town will offer testimony urging a more balanced plan for land use and infrastructure—a plan that supports quality of life for those who live here as well as new residents, and that resolves significant problems with traffic and schools capacity.

The town will establish two new links on its Web page, dedicated to the Activity Building/Nursery School and White Flint issues, respectively. We will post information and provide links to other sources. We encourage your participation in this discussion, by attending meetings and hearings, and by providing your thoughts in writing to the County Council (see town Web site for addresses) and to the town, for which you can use the “Contact town Office” link on the town’s Web site, [www.garrettpark-md.gov](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov).

Finally, no Mayor’s Letter would be complete without acknowledging the significant role that volunteers play in making our town such a pleasant and distinctive place to live. I want to thank all residents who contributed so generously of their time and talents to make the Fourth of July celebration such a success. We also had a delightful “Over 80’s” reception (honoring our senior residents), several Film Society screenings, and other events that were successful because so many town residents volunteered to insure that outcome. Please make plans to join us for the upcoming Historic Preservation walking tours, the Conservation in Action Tour, the Newcomers’ Reception, Attic-in-the-Street, Arboretum Fall Tree Walk... and the “year” is hardly begun!

Chris Keller